

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 7 and replaces the original sheet of drawings, inclusive of Figs. 1, 6 and 7. Fig. 7 has been amended by inserting -- plane P -- .

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (Figs. 1, 6, 7)

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

It is submitted that claim 1 distinguishes patentably over Mansdorfer. Original claim 1 characterized the connecting zone of the rim as including a zone of thickness E1 in mm such that:

$$E/3 + 0.5 \text{ mm} \geq 1 \geq E/3 \text{ mm; and} \\ E1 \geq 0.7 \text{ mm.}$$

That feature is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Mansdorfer who does not provide any guidance whatsoever as to how to dimension the connecting zone of his rim that would lead an artisan to arrive at the presently claimed characteristics.

Moreover, Mansdorfer discloses to reinforce the connecting zone with a corrugation 143 shown in Figs. 1 and 1A. No such reinforcement is needed in the present rim having the dimensional characteristics mentioned above. As disclosed in the present application, the rim is formed on the cylindrical mandrel 24 shown in Fig. 5, so all portions of the zone E1 lying in an imaginary plane P (see the attached drawing amendment for a showing of the plane P) passing through the zone E1 perpendicularly to the axis of rotation of the rim are spaced equidistantly from the axis of rotation. Mansdorfer's connecting zone has no such configuration, as can clearly be seen in Fig. 1A of Mansdorfer wherein the portions of the rim disposed between circumferentially adjacent corrugations 143 are closer to the axis of rotation than are the recessed portions of the corrugations. The additional, more costly steps of forming corrugations in the connecting zone are avoided by the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 distinguishes patentably over Mansdorfer, and that the present application is in condition for allowance. The description has been amended to recite language now used in the claims. It will be appreciated that such language merely describes structure that is inherent from the original disclosure.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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